State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, the powers for deciding the rules governing the issue of ration cards rest with them.

Conditions of the Jhuggi Dwellers of Chandigarh

520. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of jhuggi colonies in the Union Territory of Chandigarh and that of Jhuggis and residents in each of these colonies;

(b) what was the population of these colonies during each of the last three years; and

(c) what are the details of the basic civic amenities like water, electricity, school, dispensary provided to these colonies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Implementation of Crash Housing Programme

521. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether crash Housing Programme is not being implemented by Government in letter and spirit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that it is implemented expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Surplus stock of rice and wheat

522. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the surplus stock of rice and wheat according to the latest figures;

(b) whether the Public Distribution System is sufficiently and properly geared to undertake effective supply of the essential commodities to people all over the country especially in the rural areas; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) The stocks of rice and wheat with the Food Corporation of India as on 1.4.89 were of the order of 38.72 lakh tonnes and 23.98 lakh tonnes respectively.

(b) and (c) The Public Distribution System (PDS) is properly geared to arrange effective supply of essential commodities of PDS items to the people all over the country including rural areas. Supplies of PDS items are nevertheless supplemental in nature and not meant to provide cent per cent requirements of the population.

As on 31.12.1988, there were over 3.5 lakh fair price shops spread all over the country, of which nearly 76 per cent were in rural areas. In the year, 1988, over 15 million tonnes of foodgrains (wheat and rice) were lifted by the States/UTs from the central poof for supply through the Public Distribution System.

Assistance to Tribal Farmers for meeting Natural Calamities

523. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government give any assistance under any scheme to tribal farmers for meeting natural calamities:

(b) if so, whether assistance for payment of minimum wages under employment generation programme, agricultural input subsidy and assistance for cattle conservation are included in the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) Central assistance for various items including for payment of minimum wages under employment generation programmes, agricultural input subsidy and assistance for cattle conservation in the wake of natural calamities is extended to the affected farmers as per Central norms without making distinction between the tribal and non-tribal farmers.

Relaxation of Newsprint and Accreditation Policy

524. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Federation of small and medium Newspapers have recently urged Government to relax its newsprint and accreditation policies with regard to small and medium newspapers; and

(b) if so, reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The suggestions of the Federation of Small and Medium Newspapers have been noted. The existing arrangements are quite adequate.

Rise in the Number of Migrants to Delhi

525. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of rise in the migrants to Delhi at the end of 1988 and how does it compare with the rise in the migrants in 1987;

(b) what, according to the estimate, if any, is the percentage of rise in Delhi population at the end of 1988 and what is the percentage of urban poor as against the total population of the city;

(c) what percentage of the city's population live in slums/jhuggi clusters at the end of 1988 stating the percentage of the homeless people in Delhi; and

(d) the extent to which the existing approach to contain the influx of migrants to Delhi has helped in solving the problem and whether any change in the policy is contemplated by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No such survey has been conducted in respect of either 1987 or 1988.

(b) Percentage of rise in population is estimated at 3.9 per cent Statistics about percentage of urban poor as against the total population of Delhi in 1988 are not available.

(c) About 34 per cent of Delhi's population is living in Slums/Jhuggi clusters No statistics of homeless in Delhi after the 1981 Census are available. According to 1981 Census their number was 26870.

(d) The Government have been pursuing constantly the policy of containing migration to cities through the provision of employment in the rural areas under the scheme of Integrated Rural Development, National Rural Employment Programme etc. The scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns aims at creating infrastructure for development of these towns so as to set up industries in these small and medium towns for providing employment to the local people thereby reducing the pressure of population on large cities. The National Capital Region Plan seeks to reduce pressure of migration to Delhi, through the development of ring towns and priority towns in the neighbouring areas of the States of Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. It is hoped that the above policy would help in easing the pressure of population on Delhi and also containing influx of migrants to the city of Delhi.